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As the figures given by the captain were thought to be too large, orders were given to measure the holds, in order to know exactly how much sulphur would be required; but the captain then said that he could not wait for the disinfection, and that he would sail without it; and this is the reason why it was not done. As to the patient said by the American commissioner at Ship Island to have been seen on the way from Vera Cruz to that point, I can assure you that there was no patient at the time of the steamer's departure. With regard to the passenger who passed through El Paso, Tex., coming from Vera Cruz, without having a certificate that his baggage had been disinfected, it was the fault of the passenger himself that he did not come to this office and ask to have it disinfected, notwithstanding the notice published, by order of the council, in the local newspaper having the largest circulation. Dr. Hodgson says that the test for the diagnosis of yellow fever, at this port, is the appearance of albumen in the urine, which is true when the other symptoms of the disease have displayed themselves; but it is not true, as that gentleman seems to mean, that it is regarded by the physicians of this port as a pathognomonic symptom of the disease, and that the diagnosis is not complete until it appears. Dr. Hodgson thinks that passengers for Havana may contract the disease from contact with the passengers going to Progreso, who are not under his supervision like the former, and who are not examined by the Mexican authorities, as he asserts, but he is mistaken in this opinion, as in many others. The examination which he makes of the passengers, according to information obtained from themselves, consists in their proving to him, by the evidence of 2 persons, that they are immunes through long and continued residence at places where the yellow fever is endemic, or that they have once had that disease, or that they come direct from places where it does not exist, the same being their usual place of residence. Moreover, the passengers for Havana and Progreso all pass through this office, in order to procure their disinfection tickets, so as to pay their passage, at which time they are inspected, and their names are taken. Besides, Dr. Hodgson himself has seen the undersigned or the second delegate on board the American steamers a short time before their departure, without knowing whether we had gone there to inspect the passengers, as we did not make it a point to notify him of our business. While having the honor to bring the foregoing facts to your knowledge, I venture to request you, if there is no objection, to apply to the department of foreign relations to send to the United States Marine Hospital Service, through the proper channel, the corrections of the said reports, made by the delegate at Vera Cruz in the letter which I have transcribed, and at the same time to make it duly understood that Dr. Eduardo Licéaga, the president of the council, has never expressed the opinion attributed to him by Dr. Turpin, that there was an epidemic of yellow fever at Orizaba eighteen years ago." I have the honor to transcribe the foregoing to you for the purposes suggested by the council. I send you a copy for the purpose mentioned, and I repeat to you the assurances of my high consideration.

MARISCAL.

To the MEXICAN AMBASSADOR.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *December 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the yellow-fever epidemic that has existed here since May of this year has disappeared.

There has been 1 case of yellow fever in the city during the week, but there has not been a death for seventeen days.

The few cases of smallpox that have occurred have been promptly isolated, and the premises wherein the cases originated thoroughly disinfected. During the past week there have been 2 cases and 1 death reported. The death occurred in the pesthouse and the new cases are confined in that house.

The total mortality in the city during the past week was 26, 9 being from tuberculosis.

I consider the town free from infection, and think it safe to remove all quarantine restrictions. Havana should keep up a rigid inspection, as smallpox could be conveyed from the infected Mexican towns into Havana, the trip consuming from four to five days.

Respectfully,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

PARAGUAY.

Further concerning plague reported at Asuncion.

WASHINGTON, *December 11, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that in a telegram of the 9th instant the consul of the United States at Asuncion, Paraguay, says: "National health board maintains bubonic plague here; city doctor, Rubio, still declares mortality insignificant."

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

PORTUGAL.

Plague in Oporto.

LISBON, *November 21, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to refer to my report No. 148, of the 4th instant, and to inclose herewith official bulletins recording the cases of plague that have occurred in Portugal from November 1 to November 20, 1899, both dates inclusive, namely, 41 cases and 17 deaths.

Respectfully,

J. H. THIERIOT,
Chargé d' Affaires.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

TURKEY.

[Report No. 234.]

Report from Constantinople.

PLAGUE CASE ON BOARD THE STEAMSHIP POLYS MYTILINI.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *November 23, 1899.*

In my last report I laid stress on the plague case which occurred on the Ottoman liner, *Polys Mytilini*, which case proved fatal in one of the Trieste hospitals. As I have already reported, said liner came back to